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Examiner: M. Theisen

For: **METHOD OF AND APPARATUS FOR PRODUCING PELLETS FORM
HEAVY HYDROCARBON LIQUID**

ATTACHMENT B - CLEAN COPY OF AMENDED CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 2 and 8 without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein.

Please amend claims 1, 7, 9, 10, 13 and 14 as follows:

1. (Amended) Apparatus for producing asphalt pellets comprising:

a) flow means that supplies hot asphalt through a conduit to its outlet;

b) pellet producing means that breaks up the liquid stream of said hot asphalt exiting the outlet of said conduit and produces pellets of asphalt;

c) a reservoir or container that collects said pellets of asphalt together with some fluid producing a slurry; and

d) transporting means that transports said slurry to the required location.

7. (Amended) A method for producing asphalt pellets comprising the steps of:

a) supplying hot asphalt through a conduit to its outlet;

b) breaking up the liquid stream of said hot asphalt exiting the outlet of said conduit using a pellet producing medium to produce pellets of asphalt;

c) collecting said pellets of asphalt in a reservoir together with some fluid producing a slurry; and

d) transporting said slurry to a required location.

9. (Amended) A method according to claim 7 wherein the step of collecting said pellets of asphalt in a reservoir together with some fluid producing a slurry is carried out by collecting said pellets of asphalt in a reservoir together with some liquid water producing a heavy hydrocarbon or asphalt-water slurry.

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A 10. (Amended) A method according to claim 7 wherein said step of breaking up the liquid stream of hot asphalt flowing out of the outlet of said conduit using a pellet producing medium so that pellets of asphalt are produced is carried out by spraying a fluid so that the fluid contacts the asphalt exiting said outlet of the conduit and pellets of asphalt are produced.

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A 13. (Amended) A method according to claim 10 wherein the step of spraying a fluid so that the fluid contacts the asphalt exiting said outlet of the conduit and pellets of asphalt are produced is carried out by spraying liquid water.

14. (Amended) A method according to claim 7 including grinding said asphalt pellets and transporting the grinded asphalt pellets to a location.